

Please amend the claims to read:

- 1 1. (currently amended) In a database system wherein a group  
2 of users have access to create and edit a plurality of  
3 documents stored in the database, a system for periodically  
4 clearing the database of stored document replication  
5 conflicts comprising:  
6 means for designating one of at least one stored pairs  
7 of replication conflicting documents as the main document  
8 and the other of said pair as the secondary document;  
9 means for storing all documents involved in each of  
10 said at least one ~~a plurality~~ of said pairs of replication  
11 conflicts conflicting documents;  
12 means for defining a prioritized sequence of predeter-  
13 mined attribute values to be applied to distinguish between  
14 the stored documents in each of said replication ~~conflicts~~  
15 conflicting documents; and  
16 means for periodically applying said sequence of prede-  
17 termined attribute values to said plurality of replication  
18 ~~conflicts conflicting documents~~ to resolve each conflict by  
19 eliminating all but one of the documents in said conflict  
20 for insufficient value of a predetermined attribute.
- 1 2. (original) The database system of claim 1 wherein said  
2 means for periodically applying said sequence of attribute  
3 values include means automatically applying said sequence at  
4 predetermined regular time intervals.
- 1 3. (original) The database system of claim 2 wherein at  
2 least some of said stored replication conflicts involve  
3 pairs of conflicting documents; and said conflicts are  
4 resolved when one of any pair of conflicting documents has  
5 an insufficient value of one of said applied sequence of  
6 attributes.

1 4. (cancelled)

1 5. (currently amended) The database system of claim 4 3  
2 wherein one of said sequence of attribute values to be  
3 applied is that only one of said pair of conflicting  
4 documents has been modified after one of said pair has been  
5 designated as the main document to thereby eliminate said  
6 unmodified document of said pair.

1 6. (currently amended) The database system of claim 3  
2 wherein one of said sequence of attribute values to be  
3 applied is that only one of said pair of conflicting  
4 documents has associated entered comments to thereby  
5 eliminate the document of said pair without associated  
6 comments.

1 7. (currently amended) The database system of claim 3  
2 wherein one of said sequence of attribute values to be  
3 applied is that only one of said pair of conflicting  
4 documents has an associated date to thereby eliminate the  
5 document of said pair without an associated date.

1 8. (currently amended) In a method of creating and editing a  
2 plurality of documents by a group of users having access to  
3 said documents stored in a database, a method for  
4 periodically clearing the database of stored document  
5 replication conflicts comprising:

6 designating one of each of said stored pairs of  
7 replication conflicting documents as the main document and  
8 the other of said pair as the secondary document;

9 ~~for~~ storing all documents involved in each of a  
10 plurality of said pairs of replication ~~conflicts~~ conflicting  
11 documents;

12 defining a prioritized sequence of predetermined  
13 attribute values to be applied to distinguish between the  
14 stored documents in each of said replication ~~conflicts~~  
15 conflicting documents; and

16 periodically applying said sequence of predetermined  
17 attribute values to said plurality of replication ~~conflicts~~  
18 conflicting documents to resolve each conflict by  
19 eliminating all but one of the documents in said conflict  
20 for insufficient value of a predetermined attribute.

1 9. (original) The method of claim 8 wherein said steps of  
2 periodically applying said sequence of attribute values  
3 automatically applying said sequence at predetermined  
4 regular time intervals.

1 10. (original) The method of claim 9 wherein at least some  
2 of said stored replication conflicts involve pairs of  
3 conflicting documents; and said conflicts are resolved when  
4 one of any pair of conflicting documents has an insufficient  
5 value of one of said applied sequence of attributes.

1 11. (cancelled)

1 12. (currently amended) The method of claim 10 ~~11~~ wherein  
2 one of said sequence of attribute values to be applied is  
3 that only one of said pair of conflicting documents has been  
4 modified after one of said pair has been designated as the  
5 main document to thereby eliminate said unmodified document  
6 of said pair.

1 13. (currently amended) The method of claim 10 wherein one  
2 of said sequence of attribute values to be applied is that  
3 associated comments have been entered for only one of said  
4 pair of conflicting documents to thereby eliminate the  
5 document of said pair for without associated entered  
6 comments.

1 14. (currently amended) The method of claim 10 wherein one  
2 of said sequence of attribute values to be applied is that  
3 only one of said pair of conflicting documents has an  
4 associated date to thereby eliminate the document of said  
5 pair without an associated date.

1 15. (currently amended) A computer program having code  
2 recorded on a computer readable medium for periodically  
3 clearing stored document replication conflicts in a database  
4 system wherein a group of users have access to create and  
5 edit a plurality of documents stored in said database, said  
6 program comprising:

7 means for designating one of at least one stored pairs  
8 of replication conflicting documents as the main document  
9 and the other of said pair as the secondary document;

10 means for storing all documents involved in each of  
11 said at least one ~~a plurality~~ of said pairs of replication  
12 conflicts conflicting documents;

13 means for defining a prioritized sequence of predeter-  
14 mined attribute values to be applied to distinguish between  
15 the stored documents in each of said replication ~~conflicts~~  
16 conflicting documents; and

17 means for periodically applying said sequence of prede-  
18 termined attribute values to said plurality of replication  
19 ~~conflicts conflicting documents~~ to resolve each conflict by  
20 eliminating all but one of the documents in said conflict  
21 for insufficient value of a predetermined attribute.

1 16. (original) The computer program of claim 15 wherein said  
2 means for periodically applying said sequence of attribute  
3 values include means automatically applying said sequence at  
4 predetermined regular time intervals.

1 17. (original) The computer program of claim 16 wherein at  
2 least some of said stored replication conflicts involve  
3 pairs of conflicting documents; and said conflicts are  
4 resolved when one of any pair of conflicting documents has  
5 an insufficient value of one of said applied sequence of  
6 attributes.

1 18. (cancelled).

1 19. (currently amended) The computer program of claim ~~18~~ 17  
2 wherein one of said sequence of attribute values to be  
3 applied is that only one of said pair of documents has been  
4 modified after one of said pair has been designated as the  
5 main document to thereby eliminate said unmodified document  
6 of said pair.

1 20. (currently amended) The computer program of claim 17  
2 wherein one of said sequence of attribute values to be  
3 applied is that only one of said pair of conflicting  
4 documents has associated entered comments to thereby  
5 eliminate the document of said pair without associated  
6 comments.

1 21. (currently amended) The computer program of claim 17  
2 wherein one of said sequence of attribute values to be  
3 applied is that only one of said pair of conflicting  
4 documents has an associated date to thereby eliminate the  
5 document of said pair without an associated date.